(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Declaration of hindus as minorities

1533. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Notification dated the 23rd October, 1993 with regard to the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 has defined only five communities as minorities-Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis);

(b) whether the Government are aware that in at least 5 States like Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Nagaland and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Hindus are in minority; and

(c) if so, whether in these States Hindus would fall within the purview of the National Commission for Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Reservation in Private Sector

†1534. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether major industrial houses of the country have written to Government denying job reservation to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the names of such industrial houses; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In May 2005, 21 captains of industry have issued a statement welocming the move of the Government to have a dialogue with the industry on affirmative action. They have committed to expand their activities for disadvantaged persons with regard to scholarships, company-run private schools, partnership with Government schools, vocational training in-house as well as in partnership with ITIs, vender development programmes etc. The signatories are: Ms. Anu Aga - Chairman of Thermax Group of Companies; Mr. Rahul Bajaj-Bajaj Group of Companies; Mr. Kumara Mangalam Birla-Chairman, Aditya Birla Group; Mr. Tarun Das - Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. Naushad Forbes-Director, Forbes Marshall India; Mr. A.S. Ganguly-Former Chairman of Hindustan Lever & Member of Investment Commission; Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej-MD, Godrej and Boyce Manufacturing Company Limited; Mr. F.T. Khorakiwala-CEO of SWITZ Group of Companies; Mr. H.F. Khorakiwala-CMD, Wockhardt Limited; Mr. Suresh Krishna-Chairman-TVS Group; Mr. Keshub Mahendra- CMD, Mahindra & Mahindra; Dr. A.C. Muthiah-Chairman, Firest Leasing Company of India Limited; Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal-Ex Chairman, CII; Mr. B. Muthuraman-MD, Tata Steel; Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy-Infosys; Mr. Deepak Parekh-Head of HDFC Bank; Mr. Azim Premji-CEO, Wipro; Mr. S. Ramadorai-CEO, Tata Consultancy Services; Mr. Gurpreet Singh-MD, Continental Devices; Mr. R.N. Tata - Chairman, Tata Sons Limited; and Mr. Gautam Thapar - Chairman, Crompton Greaves Limited.

The above-referred statement is a part of continuing dialogue with industry with regard to affirmative action including reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe youth.

Traditional Tribal Artisans

1535. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government are taking to protect the traditional tribal artisans under the new WTO regime;

(b) whether the new tribal welfare policy would address these concerns of the tribals; and